



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

STAR – Student Trainees in Agricultural Resources

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is committed to reaching out to all traditional and non-traditional customers in making them aware of and how to access USDA conservation programs and services throughout the country.

Under the leadership of State Conservationist James W. Ford, all NRCS Field Offices in Tennessee are promoting "STAR" - Student Trainees in Agricultural Resources. The STAR program was developed to introduce today's youth to agriculture, and at the same time encourage them to choose agriculture as their future vocation.

Introduced in April 2000, the goal behind the STAR Initiative is to encourage and develop a cadre of young students who will be society's providers or future farmers, or perhaps potential employees for NRCS.

The STAR Initiative allows high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to gain more knowledge about agriculture through hands-on experiences and interactions with USDA employees.

STARs are invited to participate in a one-day orientation session. The STARs then return home and work side-by-side as volunteers with NRCS professionals in their communities to learn more about opportunities in the agency and its conservation functions.

The STAR Initiative helps NRCS meet three of its objectives:

- Outreach
- Recruitment
- Earth Team Volunteers

STARs are directly linked with NRCS at the local level through the State Outreach Coordinator. The State Outreach Coordinator promotes the STAR Initiative through the local conservation partners. Every STAR becomes an Earth Team Volunteer working side-by-side with NRCS professionals to put more conservation on the ground in local communities. NRCS will have some summer employment opportunities available for STARs; the number of positions available will be determined by agency management.

How to Qualify to be A STAR!

All Students Must:

1. Be at least 16 years old
2. Be in grades 10-12
3. Have at least a "C" average
4. Submit two letters of reference
5. Submit application by the deadline date

Contact your local NRCS District Conservationist at _____ for an application packet

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